

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
56/49

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1057



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 27 Hancock Street

Historic Name Arthur Gilman House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1931

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Dutch Colonial

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete

Wall/Trim brick/wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage

Major Alterations (with dates) 1999 - rear addition

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 11,210 SF

Setting mixed 18th to 20th century residential
neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) June 2000

BUILDING FORM (27 Hancock Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

A good example of the Dutch Colonial style conceived in brick, 27 Hancock Street is a 1 1/2-story dwelling sheathed in brick and capped by a steeply-pitched gambrel roof. A brick soldier course wraps around the building above the concrete foundation and just under the eaves. Centered on the three-bay facade is a wooden door with four panels and an integral divided semicircular fanlight. Set above a brick stoop, the door is flanked by partial sidelights. The broken bed pediment entrance porch is supported by Roman Doric columns and has a curved underside. On either side of the entrance porch is a tripartite window consisting of a central 6/1 window flanked by 4/1 sash with a brick sill. Spanning the front roof slope is a shed dormer sheathed in wide wood clapboards. The three individual 6/1 windows are flanked by wood panel shutters with cutouts. An exterior brick chimney rises on the north elevation, hidden from view by an enclosed brick sunporch with stick balustrade and 6/1 windows. The south side of the building is spanned by a glazed sunporch with matching balustrade and Roman Doric columns alternating with segmentally arched openings. A lunette window is located at the top of the gambrel end.

A second shed dormer spans the rear roof slope. Extending behind is a two-story ell designed in the late 1990s to be compatible with the original house displaying a pedimented enclosed porch on the north side.

The house occupies a corner lot at the northeast corner of Hancock Street and Edgewood Road. Facing Edgewood is a two-car, gablefront garage sheathed in wide clapboards and resting on a concrete foundations. There are two overhead garage doors on the gablefront, which displays cornice returns. The remaining openings consist of 6/1 sash with shutters.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house was constructed on land which was subdivided in 1929 from the Hallie Blake property. ^{formerly the Hayes Estate} The Blake House (formerly 23 Hancock Street) is shown on the 1927 Sanborn Insurance map but was removed shortly thereafter and the land was subdivided into what became 23, 25, and 27 Hancock Street as well as 11 Blake Avenue. (see 60 Meriam St., MHC # 388)

It appears that 27 Hancock Street was constructed in 1931. The Lexington Valuation List indicates that Arthur Gilman was first assessed in 1932 for a house valued at \$8,000, set on a 11,200 square foot lot. Just a few years later the house was being occupied by Charles and Ruth Davis; he was employed as an engineer. Later occupants included Roscoe and Birdella Wade in the late 1930s and Ralph and Audrey Hardy from about 1940 until 1961. Walter and Evelyn Phenix purchased the house in 1961 and Evelyn Phenix sold it to the present owners in 1977.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Assessors Records.
Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.
Sanborn maps, 1927 and 1935.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*